



**March 2012**



Jodi Ross,  
Town  
Manager

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Receive Important Town  
Notices and Information  
*See page 7*

**St. Patrick's Day  
Luncheon for Westford  
Seniors on Tuesday,  
March 13th  
*See Page 8.***

**Five-time Jump Rope  
World Champion visits  
Westford for  
*Jump Rope Jive!*,  
March 15th  
*See Page 4.***

**Spaghetti Dinner  
Friday, March 23rd  
*See Page 9.***

**Annual Town Meeting  
Saturday, March 24, 2012  
10:00AM at the Abbot  
School**

Watch Meetings Online

**westford**  
*CAT*

[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

**Dear Westford Residents,**

Our annual town meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, March 24, 2012. The warrant contains 37 articles, which I have provided a brief summary of below. Additional information including the entire warrant, motions, budgets, reports, and Finance Committee recommendations may be found on our town's website : [ATM 3/24/12](http://ATM 3/24/12).

**Article 1** accepts town reports, which are now on a fiscal year basis.

**Article 2** seeks to supplement the FY12 legal budget by \$60,000, primarily due to the litigation surrounding the asphalt plant, and also increase the veteran's services budget by \$12,000 to cover additional expenses and wages.

**Articles 3 and 4** will be dismissed.

**Article 5** would allow the Board of Selectmen to settle town claims against others upon such terms and conditions as the board deems in the best interests of the town.

**Article 6** seeks to transfer \$250,000 from the settlement with the blasting contractor of the town's highway garage and appropriate \$200,000 from the Perchlorate Stabilization Fund for the purpose of providing funds to remediate perchlorate contamination.

**Article 7** seeks approval of Capital Appropriations for FY12 for the Water Department, and includes funding a dump truck, replacing a data acquisition (SCADA) system, and purchasing on-line turbidity monitoring equipment (*See Page 10.*)

**Article 8** seeks approval to transfer funds from completed Water Department projects for the testing, repairing and replacement of large capacity water meters (*See Page 11.*)

**Article 9** seeks approval for the Community Preservation Funds appropriations.

**Article 10** seeks approval of the town's FY13 operating budget.

**Article 11** seeks to allow property tax exemptions for residents who qualify and may be blind, elderly, surviving spouses or minors, or disabled veterans.

**Article 12** seeks re-authorization for existing revolving funds.

**Article 13** seeks approval to use Chapter 90 funds for repairing roadways and bridges.

**Articles 14 and 15 (citizen's petition)** seeks appropriation of \$5,000 for surveying and other technical work to develop parking for the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

**Articles 16 and 17 (citizen's petition)** seek to transfer the care, custody and control of parcel 86, map 7 from the Tax Possession Sale Committee to the Parks and Recreation Commission to allow an Eagle Scout to erect a Bruce Freeman Rail Trail kiosk there.

**Article 18** is a citizen's petition to cease all planning or development of public parking in residential areas within 1-mile of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail.

(Continued on next page)

**Article 19** seeks capital appropriations for FY13 in the amount of \$826,692, plus a bond for \$225,000 for an ambulance and Abbot School boiler, with an additional \$171,528 going into Capital Stabilization.

**Article 20** is a citizen's petition seeking \$475,000 to be bonded to construct and install new bleachers at the Westford Academy's Trustee Field at Alumni Stadium.

**Article 21** The Water Department is seeking funds to upgrade water mains along Route 110, from Boston Rd. to Nixon Rd., and from Nixon Rd to Saint Marys Dr.

**Article 22** seeks to admit the town of Ayer into the Nashoba Valley Technical High School District.

**Article 23** is a citizen's petition seeking to allow continuous parking along Connell Drive and remove the 15-minute parking limit signs in front of the library and town hall.

**Article 24** would allow the selectmen to accept easements without town meeting vote.

**Article 25** is a citizen's petition which would direct the selectmen to establish a "drop" box policy or bylaw.

**Article 26** seeks to name the basketball court at the main gym in Westford Academy the "Edward J. Scollan Basketball Court".

**Article 27** seeks to name the Middle School Auditorium in Memory of Katie Enos.

**Article 28** is a citizen's petition seeking to direct the selectmen to appoint a committee charged with renaming the Stepinski/East Boston Camps town properties.

**Article 29** seeks to amend the town's general bylaws and allow the selectmen to settle claims against the town.

**Article 30** would amend the Earth Removal Bylaw to exempt residential projects that are removing less than 1000 cubic yards of material from needing a permit.

**Article 31** amends the table of Dimensional and Density Regulations restoring language that was removed in 2001, that clarifies that dry land does not include wetlands, when meeting the 75% upland requirement.

**Article 32** amends the zoning bylaws wetlands definition –our current bylaws includes two definitions of wetlands, one referencing our local bylaw, the second referencing the state's. Our boards agree striking the 2<sup>nd</sup> definition will clarify and result in the better definition.

**Article 33** changes the term Building Inspector to Building Commissioner in our zoning bylaws for consistency.

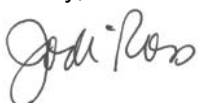
**Article 34** is a citizen's petition seeking to amend the special permit section of our zoning bylaws to create a process for modification to permits after they are issued.

**Article 35** would accept Rush Road, Randolph Circle, and Hutchins Ways as public ways.

**Article 36** seeks to transfer care, custody and control of certain parcels from the Board of Selectmen to the Water Commissioners.

I hope to see you at town meeting.

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross

## Health Department News

### ***TABLE TALKS*** program selected for Service to Science Academy

Following a competitive application process, *Table Talk* was one of 48 programs nationally selected this year to participate in Service to Science Academy. Only 15 programs in the Northeast were chosen from the applicant pool.

A program of W.A.S.A. and the Westford Health Department, the *Table Talks: Parents Connecting for Alcohol-Free Youth* model was developed to provide parents with a comfortable opportunity to communicate openly with each other about underage drinking. Each program, facilitated by a professional, is held in a host home to discuss important substance abuse issues and parenting strategies with invited neighbors and friends.

The Service to Science Academy, was established in 2005 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to increase the number and array of effective prevention interventions that address substance abuse and related mental and behavioral health problems. It achieves these goals by providing a combination of training event, customized technical assistance, and financial incentives.



*Substance Abuse Prevention Coordinator, Ray Peachey and Health Director, Sandy Collins attend Service to Science Academy*

## Health Department Educational Programs



### UPCOMING “LET’S MOVE WESTFORD” EVENTS



## JUMP ROPE JIVE!

The Westford Health Department and Upper Merrimac Valley Medical Reserve Corps are partnering with Lowell General Hospital and the Westford Healthy Kids Coalition for a "Let's Move" family event!

Rene Bibaud, a five-time jump rope world champion, ESPN commentator and former artist and coach of Cirque Du Soleil, educates, motivates and demonstrates the benefits - of what she calls the single best fitness tool - the jump rope! Rene shares her life experiences with the audience while performing fun, interactive jump rope skills & dynamic hands-on lessons for all ages. Rene's presentation includes lots of audience participation as well as time for Q&A, photos, and autograph signing.

Check out Rene and RopeWorks ([www.ropeworkjumprope.com](http://www.ropeworkjumprope.com)).

**Date:** Thursday, March 15  
**Time:** 6:30 – 8:00 PM  
**Location:** Stony Brook Middle School Auditorium  
**Cost:** \$5 pp or \$15 Family Maximum\*  
**Tickets:** Purchase tickets at door

\*Proceeds benefit the 'Chefs Moves to Schools' Initiative that will be piloted in our schools Fall 2012 - check out <http://www.letsmove.gov/chefs-move-schools> for more information about this program.





## Health Department Educational Programs (continued)

### WELCOME CELTICS STAFF!

#### *TRAIN AND EAT LIKE THE PROS*

Have you ever wondered how the Pros eat? Or how they train, to be able to compete at a competitive level? Do you wish you knew how to eat, and what to eat, to support your own training goals? Do you feel confident that your training program is bringing you the results that you are looking for?

Whether a weekend warrior, or a competitive athlete, this presentation will help to dispel some myths and misconceptions around your basic fitness and nutrition needs:

- Are carbs fattening? How much protein do you need?
- Do you need supplements to train?
- Not a lot of time to devote to exercise: cardio or strength training? Resistance Training Core Work ... Cardio ... how much? How often?

**Please join Pro Sports Therapy, Westford and Waltham, MA along with the Westford Health Department and Westford Parent Connection in welcoming:**

**Presenters:** Director of Pro Sports Training and Boston Celtics Strength and Conditioning Coach: **Bryan Doo, MEd, CSCS, PES, CES**  
Pro Sports Therapy Consultant and Boston Celtics Nutritionist:  
**Joan Buchbinder, MS, RD, CSSD, LDN, FADA**

**Date:** April 3

**Location:** Stony Brook Auditorium

**Time:** 7-9 pm

Let Bryan and Joan address your training and nutrition needs and help you improve your spring fitness and nutrition goals!



## Health Department Educational Programs (concluded)

### **SEPTIC SYSTEM & DRINKING WATER WELL BASICS**

*Please join us for an informational session and Q&A regarding on-site septic systems & private drinking water wells. Specific topics will include:*

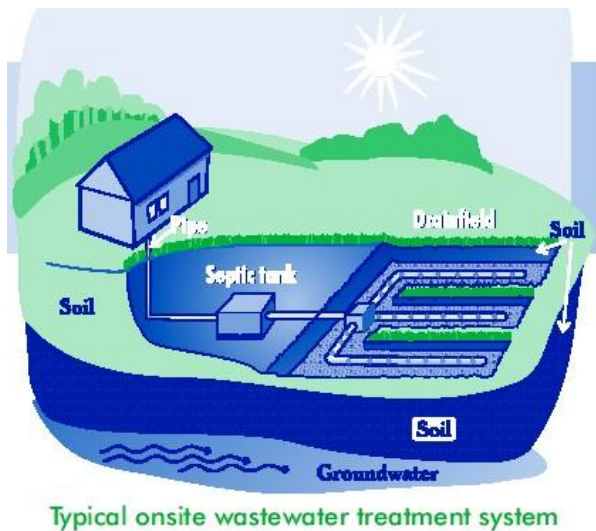
- *Septic System Care & Maintenance Basics*
- *Title 5 System Inspections and Requirements for Property Transfers*
- *Private Drinking Water Well Quality (Recommended Testing Parameters & Frequency)*

**Date:** Monday April 23rd

**Time:** 7 P.M.

**Location:** Town Hall- 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

*Please telephone the BOH office at 978 692 5509 to register.*



## J. V. Fletcher Library News

YOUR FEEDBACK CREATES THE FOOTPRINTS  
THAT WE WILL FOLLOW:

Please take fifteen minutes to fill out the Community Survey sent to you by the Fletcher Library, or if you prefer please fill it out on-line via the [Survey Monkey Link](#) on our homepage at [www.westfordlibrary.org](http://www.westfordlibrary.org).

We also have print copies available at every service desk in the Library.

Don't miss your window of opportunity - through mid-March - to be a critical part of the decision-making vehicle that drives the direction we take to provide you with Customer Services that will enrich and support and enliven your life in Westford. Thank you!



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## Council on Aging News



Cameron Senior Center Quilters Club meets on Monday, 9:30 - 11:30. Open to all interested quilters.

### Up Coming Events:

**St. Patrick's Day Luncheon** for our residents age 60 and over on Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 11 AM and sponsored by the Council on Aging at the Franco American Club. Fee is \$7. and pre-registration at 978-692-5523 is required. Hosted by The Inn at Robin's Brook.

**"Whole Grains: Benefits to You"** a Nutritionist will discuss whole grains compared to refined grains and identifying the difference in food products and their health benefits. Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at Noon in the dining room at Cameron .

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## **Council on Aging News (Concluded)**

**Spaghetti Dinner** sponsored by the Police Association on Friday, March 23 at 5 PM for resident seniors at the Franco American Club. Free but pre-registration is required at 978-692-5523.

**“To stay or not to stay?”** on Tuesday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 8:30 AM at the Cameron Senior Center. A continental breakfast and door prizes will be provided for those who pre-register at 978-692-5523. This informative morning will feature area professionals with facts about our homes. Whether you are staying in your current home during your retirement years, or planning to move, there are issues to be aware of.

- What are the safety issues you need to think of for day to day living?
- How can you be prepared for an emergency?
- What does Title V really mean to you?
- What does your home owners insurance really cover?
- What options are out there if we decide to move?

Listen and ask questions of Rae Dick from the Board of Health, Fire Chief Rich Rochon, Ed Connolly owner of Connolly Insurance, Kathy Cunningham and Leslie Thomas from Coldwell Banker Real Estate. This is current information for all to hear.

**Volunteer meeting** for current volunteers and those wishing to volunteer at the Cameron on Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in the thrift store we will meet at 9:30 am Fitness room monitor 10 am or the food pantry at 11 am. You are welcome to stay for all meetings. We appreciate a one year commitment from volunteers. All volunteers must complete a CORI check.

**For questions, or reservations call Cameron Center Desk: 978-692-5523**

**Transportation available weekdays for age 60 and over and the disabled.  
Please call 978-399-2322.**

## Water Department News

With Town Meeting rapidly approaching (March 24) we thought it a good idea to provide a brief explanation of the reasoning for each of the Water Department-related Articles:

### Why are these capital items in Article 7 separate from the rest of the Town's capital items?

The reason is because the Water Department Enterprise Fund will be used to pay for them, and they must be purchased while the amount of the Fund is certified. This Capital request was presented to the Capital Committee along with the applicable justification.

ARTICLE 7:	<b>Capital Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2012</b>	<i>Capital Planning Committee</i>
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To see if the Town will appropriate by taxation, by transfer from available funds, by borrowing, or any combination thereof, the sum of \$145,364 (ONE HUNDRED FORTY FIVE THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED SIXTY FOUR DOLLARS) to provide for the following capital requests:

DEPARTMENT	AMOUNT	PURPOSE
Water Department	\$85,364	Purchase of dump truck and any other related costs
Water Department	\$30,000	Replace supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system software and any other related costs
Water Department	\$30,000	On-line turbidity monitoring equipment and any other related costs

Or act in relation thereto.



*Rot on underside of dump bed*



*Rot on outside stabilizer rail*

### Why do we need to replace the above equipment?

The dump truck is 17 years old and requires a new dump body at a cost of about \$15,000. Due to its age and condition, it is not economically prudent to repair this vehicle.

The existing SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) System is outdated. The SCADA System is the software that controls the entire operation of the Water Department facilities, and is critical to operation of the entire treatment and distribution system. The current version of the software will not run on the computer operating systems currently available.

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## Water Department News (continued)

The replacement of turbidity monitoring equipment is required to ensure compliance with the Surface Water Treatment Rule. Our current equipment is no longer supported by the manufacturer making it extremely difficult and impractical to maintain. In the event of failure of this equipment, the Water Department is only allowed to manually collect samples for no more than five days. Since the equipment is no longer supported, this has the potential to put the Water Department into non-compliance with MassDEP requirements 310 CMR Section 22.20D(5)(b).

<b>ARTICLE 8:</b>	<b>Testing, Repairing, and Replacement of Large Capacity Water Meters</b>	<i>Board of Water Commissioners</i>
To see if the Town will transfer a sum of \$180,990.56 (ONE HUNDRED EIGHTY THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED NINETY DOLLARS AND FIFTY SIX CENTS) from the following accounts:		
	Upgrade Water Main Byrne Ave – Article 12, 2008 ATM	173,591.05
	Stepinski Land – Article 29, 2008 ATM	584.62
	Country Road Well – Article 6, 2009 STM	6,814.89
to provide for the testing, repairing, and replacement of large water meters and any other related costs;		
Or act in relation thereto.		

The above accounts comprise funds that were bonded for past projects that came in under budget. The Water Department is requesting to use funds from these completed projects to maintain and replace large capacity water meters. These meters require more testing than a standard household meter, and are significantly more expensive to replace.

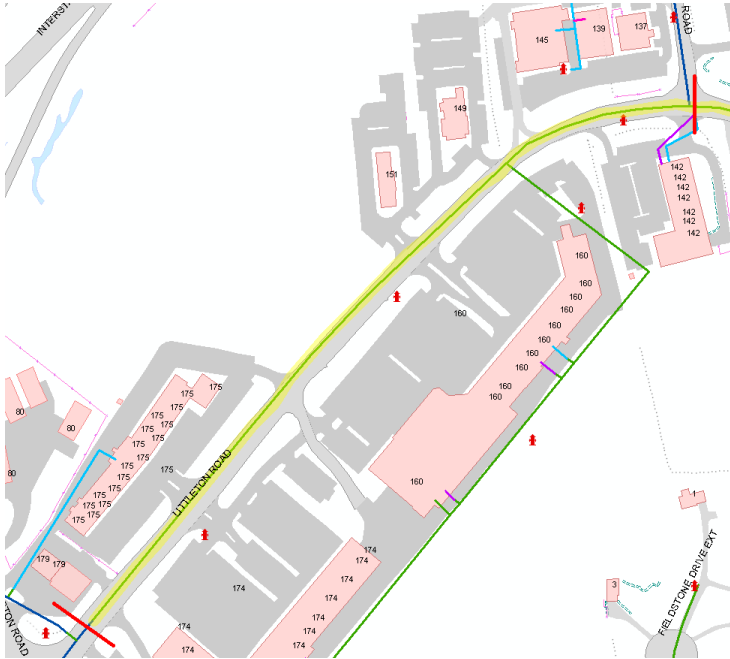
<b>ARTICLE 21:</b>	<b>Water Distribution System Improvements – Route 110 Water Main Replacement – Boston Road to Nixon Road and Nixon Road to Saint Mary's Drive</b>	<i>Board of Water Commissioners</i>
To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$550,000 (FIVE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS) to be expended at the direction of the Water Commissioners, for the purpose of making water system improvements on Route 110 from Boston Road to Nixon Road, including all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is hereby authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to <u>Chapter 44 Section 7 or 8 of the General Laws</u> , or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor;		
And further;		
To see if the Town will appropriate the sum of \$750,000 (SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS) to be expended at the direction of the Water Commissioners, for the purpose of making water system improvements on Route 110 from Nixon Road to Saint Mary's Drive, including all costs incidental and related thereto, and that to meet this appropriation, the Town Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, is hereby authorized to borrow said amount under and pursuant to <u>Chapter 44 Section 7 or 8 of the General Laws</u> , or any other enabling authority, and to issue bonds or notes of the Town therefor;		
Or act in relation thereto.		

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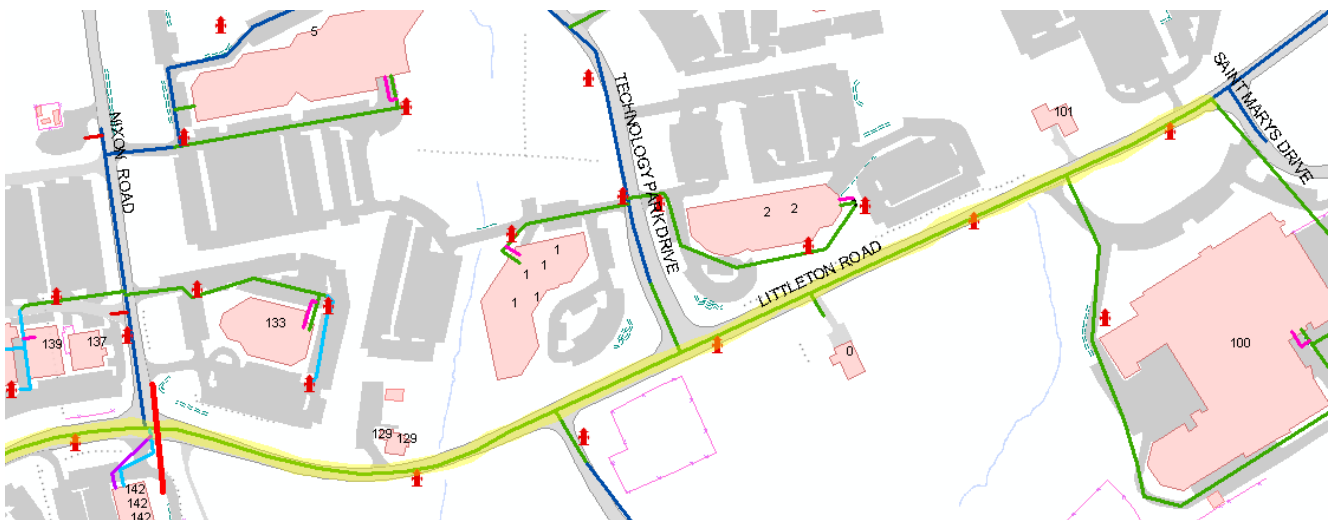
## Water Department News (continued)

Improving system fire protection capacity is one focus of the Water Department Master Plan. By replacing the current undersized mains with larger mains these two projects will significantly improve fire flow from the densely-developed Red Hat building in Technology Park West to Princeton Properties near the Chelmsford line. It's critical for the larger mains to be installed before the road widening at Minots corner is done.

Note: Article 21 is separated into two parts. This is because the financing of the MassDOT project section - (Boston Rd. to Nixon Rd.) must be kept separate from the Water Department project section (Nixon Rd. to St. Marys Rd.)



*Section from Boston to Nixon Roads included in the MassDOT project. The main slated for replacement is highlighted in yellow between the two red lines.*



*Section from Nixon Road to Saint Mary's Drive included in the Water Department project. The main slated for replacement is highlighted in yellow.*

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## Water Department News (concluded)

ARTICLE 36:	Transfer Custody of Town Properties From Board of Selectmen to The Board of Water Commissioners	Water Commissioners
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To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 15A to transfer the care, custody, management and control of the following properties, including all works, buildings and other structures located, erected or constructed thereon, from the Board of Selectmen for the purposes for which the properties are now held, to the Board of Water Commissioners for water supply system purposes as set forth in Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 39B:

### DEPOT STREET WELL SITE

Map/Parcel: 065 0002 0000  
 Street Address: Depot Street  
 Title Reference: MNRD Book 1693, Pages 24, 554, and 555

Map/Parcel: 065 0003 0000  
 Street Address: Depot Street  
 Title Reference: MNRD Book 1693, Page 24

### NUTTING ROAD SITE

Map/Parcel: 068 0001 0000  
 Street Address: 17 and 19 Nutting Road  
 Title Reference: MNRD Book 1546, Page 42

### COUNTRY ROAD #2 SITE

Map/Parcel: 020 0034 0000  
 Street Address: 15 Country Road  
 Title Reference: MNRD Book 1678, Pages 590, 591, 592, and 593

Map/Parcel: 020 0090 0000  
 Street Address: 14 Country Road  
 Title Reference: MNRD Book 1614, Page 193

Map/Parcel: 020 0018 0002  
 Street Address: Country Road  
 Title Reference: MNRD Book 5446 Page 40  
 MNRD Book 5103 Page 119;

Or act in relation thereto.

The MassDEP requires that the Water Department own or control the land and activities at the locations of its source wells in order to protect the water supply. This is why we are requesting transfer of care and custody from the Town to the Water Department. With the exception of the last Country Road Parcel 020 0018 0002, these parcels were included in last March's Town Meeting warrant for transfer, but were inadvertently left off the Motions.

Maps showing the location of these parcels are available at the Water Department website: ([www.westfordma.gov/water](http://www.westfordma.gov/water)), and will be on display at the upcoming Town Meeting.